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June 2010

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VOTER has been published ten times this year. Copy for the Summer Voter is due Friday, July 9, 2010.

Join us in the Ruby Room at Michael's Banquet Facility
Route 20, Hamburg, NY,
Saturday, June 5, 2010

Annual Meeting

of the
League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara
The Annual Meeting will begin with coffee at 10:00, a.m.



The Celebration of the League's 90th Birthday

begins with Luncheon at noon.

Our program includes

- **A portrayal of Carrie Chapman Catt by Christina Rausa, a prominent local actress**
- **Highlights of League History by Marie Hanrahan, our League historian**
- **Making Democracy Work awards to Lee Lambert & Lee Tetkowski**
- **Recognition of 50 year members**
- **Honoring Janet Massaro on her retirement**

The reservation form is in the blue Call to Annual Meeting booklet that you received with the May Voter. Judy Metzger needs to receive your reservation by June 2, 2010. Contact Judy at events@lwvbn.org
See menu choices on page 7 of this Voter.

League of Women Voters Mission:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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President's Message

It's hard to believe we're coming to the end of another League year. The board has been busy preparing for the coming year. At the annual meeting on June 5th you will be asked to elect the new slate of officers presented by the nominating committee, approve the program presented by the issues committee and the budget presented by the budget committee. In addition, because this year is a significant milestone in League history you will be treated to a special program and birthday celebration.

I want to thank Therese Warden and Judy Weidemann who will be leaving the board next month and welcome our new board members who will be starting in their new positions. Also, I send a big "Thank You" to Janet Massaro for her years of service as office manager.

This has been a very busy spring. League members participated in "The Ethics in Albany?" event on April 25th with Blair Horner as the keynote speaker. Joan Photiadis, Ellen Moomaw, Janet Goodsell and Barbara Kloberdanz, who moderated the program, planned this successful program.

In addition, Margaret Brunson and Lyle Toohey took part in a TV interview about the League of Women Voters. This informational program will be aired on "Public Record" on WNYB-TV: Channel 12 Sub, 23 Buffalo; May 27 at 9:30am and May 28 at 2:30pm.

League members, led by Janet Goodsell, are conducting legislative interviews throughout Erie County this month. Kathleen McCarthy and her committee are conducting the BMHA Elections, we had the opportunity to tour the Ecotrail at Daemen College, we're in the process of hiring a new LWVB/N office manager, and of course we'll soon be reorganizing for the coming year.

I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting and 90th Anniversary celebration at Michael's Banquet Center on June 5th.

Margaret Brunson, LWVB/N Co-President

Important Messages

We are preparing for the 2010 Elections. Volunteers are needed to work on the Voter Guide, candidate forums and informational programs for new and not so new voters. Get Involved - we need your help. Contact the office by phone or e-mail to volunteer for any of these key activities of the League.

The Incoming/Outgoing Board meeting will be held on June 21 at 4:30 p.m. at 1272 Delaware. At this meeting we will exchange board handbooks and ideas and begin planning for the 2010-2011 League year.

Best Wishes to Co-president Loretta Peszynski, who will have knee replacement surgery in June. We will miss her while she is recovering and rehabilitating.

At this time we have no one from LWVB/N attending the LWVUS Convention in Atlanta, June 11-15.

Help Needed: We'd like to explore adding advertisements to the VOTER. We need someone to work with the voter editor to develop and coordinate advertising. We have guidelines from LWNYS to assist us in the effort. If you're willing to help, please contact Terri Parks at events@lwvbn.org.

Great Decisions

Once more Achtung! "Halting atrocities in Kenya" (actually topic 2 for 2010) will be up for discussion on Thursday, June 3, from 10 AM - noon at 1272 Delaware. Our leader will be Elsa Bondar, who actually lived in Kenya, and so we were glad to accommodate her schedule. "Post-election rioting in Kenya in December 2007 brought pressure on Nairobi from international and regional diplomats, to end tensions and avert bloodshed on a massive scale. What lessons can be learned from the intervention in Kenya? What does it mean for the UN's emerging 'responsibility to protect' doctrine? I hope you can join us.

Bernice Baeumler events@lwvbn.org

Voter Services

Naturalization

The following league members represented the League at the Naturalization services on May 6: Ellen Moomaw and Jean Flower. On June 17, Richard Hemann and Jean Flowers will welcome new citizens on behalf of the League.

Candidate Forums

The following school districts conducted school board candidates' forums with a League moderator and timekeeper: May 5: KenTon - Marian Deutschmann and Maxine Johnson; Lackawanna - Laura McDade and Jean Flowers; May 6: Williamsville - Judy Huber; May 10: Amherst – Ramona Gallagher, May 11: StarPoint - Lee Tetkowski and Janet Goodsell Thank you ladies and gentleman for contributing your time and talents for our local League.

Joyce H. Bol, Voter Services Chair

Albany On the Record

Four local League members, Janet Goodsell, Judy Huber, Mary Scheeder, Joyce Bol and one guest left Buffalo at 5:20 am for Albany on May 5th. Our bus added additional people in Rochester, Syracuse and Utica for a total of 28. We participated in "Albany On the Record", an all-day event, attended by about 250 people from around the state, who listened to a few New York State politicians.

Governor Patterson, Comptroller DiNapoli, Senator Sampson, Senator Skelos, Assemblyman Silver and Assemblyman Kolb were asked the same question, "How Will You Restore the Public Trust"? After each answered, the moderator asked each of the politicians a question mostly relating to campaign financing or redistricting. The day focused on five major New York State problematic issues: Ethics, Member Items, Campaign Finance, Redistricting and Lobbying.

This day was well organized by the Brennan Center for Justice, Reinvent Albany, NYPIRG, New York Common Cause, Citizens Union, and the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. The bus as well as a box lunch were provided free of charge for participants. We agreed that it was a long bus ride, but a very educationally beneficial day. If anyone would like to have a copy of some of the materials, let me know.

Joyce H. Bol

The Lake Erie Basin Committee Invites Participation

The Lake Erie Basin Committee (LEBC) is a committee that allows the League to educate itself and communicate with itself on critical issues pertaining to Lake Erie. Organized in 1963 with guidance from LWVUS, the Committee is a multi-League group dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Lake Erie and its watershed. Members include Leagues or individual League members from the five states bordering the lake: New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Its meeting place varies.

LEBC sends three mailings and convenes three meetings each year: Spring, Summer and Fall. Officers are elected to a two-year term at the LEBC Annual Meeting. This year's Annual Meeting and election of officers will take place on Wednesday, July 21, 2010, from 10 am to 2 pm, at Beach House Condominiums, 22500 Lake Road, Rocky River, Ohio.

Please do your part to ensure that the LWV Lake Erie Basin Committee, the first watershed group in the United States, continues to exist. Contact us today if you would like to attend a meeting or if you can help in any way! Car-pooling and mileage can usually be arranged.

In League, *The LEBC Nominating Committee*

Lee Lambert, LWV Buffalo/Niagara, events@lwvbn.org

West Valley Nuclear Site 48 Years Later and Still a Moving Target

Late 2008, the Department of Energy (DOE) and NY State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) issued a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 'decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship' of the **35 million curies** of nuclear waste at the West Valley site.

The public comment period on the 1300 page draft ended in early September 2009, a final EIS (1400 pages, 18 pounds) was issued in late January 2010 and the DOE's Record of Decision (ROD) was published in the Federal Register on April 22, 2010.

NYSERDA's Findings Statement (their version of the ROD) has been submitted to Governor Paterson and has become final since the Governor took no action within the allotted time. Both the ROD and Findings endorse the preferred alternative of "phased decision-making". Phase 1 will deal with 2% of the waste within 10 years. During that time, more studies and analyses will be done for the rest of the site, presumably resulting in a decision on the 98% balance of the waste.

Two volumes of **public comments** on the EIS indicated **preference of full exhumation** of the burial grounds and the high level tanks, but **DOE and NYSERDA are unwilling to commit to any criteria for a degree of clean-up.**

Since 1982, the DOE has been advocating *in-situ* stabilization – in other words, pump concrete into the tanks and burial grounds to immobilize the radioactive slurries. DOE is **not promising another EIS for the Phase 2 decision process**, although NYSERDA questioned data in the EIS leading to the ROD.

NYSERDA probably will have to comply with SEQRA, the State Environmental Quality Review Act, particularly for the state's burial ground.

The West Valley site is riddled with creeks, several of them highly erodable. **Long-term stewardship** will require **240,000 years** of caretakership, including inevitable changes in civilization, governments, and languages.

More information can be accessed through the following links:

www.westvalleyctf.org Citizen Task Force formed in 1996 after an aborted EIS

<http://nuclear.bfn.org> An ongoing saga of West Valley and Tonawanda

www.westvalleyeis.com DOE's easy access to the Draft & Final EIS

Lee Lambert and Joanne Hameister

Contact Lee: events@lwvbn.org

An Important Opportunity to Serve the League and Connect with Fellow League Members

Workers are still needed to assist with the BMHA Tenant Commissioners' election. Sorting of the returned ballots will take place on June 9 and 10 at 1272 Delaware. Opening of the ballots and tabulation of the votes will be on June 11 at the BMHA headquarters at 300 Perry Street. Why not join the core of faithful workers who have already committed to be a part of this project, which provides revenue for the League's other important endeavors. If you can work at least one of these days, please contact Kathleen McCarthy at events@lwvbn.org.

Quilt Auction and Basket Raffle

The Annual Meeting and 90th Birthday Celebration on June 5, 2010 will include a Basket Raffle to benefit LWVBN. We'll also raffle the beautiful quilt that Ann Marie Malachowski pieced and contributed earlier this year. We will have a nice variety of items and hope that you'll come prepared to purchase chances on the "baskets" and the quilt.

Improving Girls' Education: the Western New York Girls' Schools Coalition: Afghanistan Project and Orchard Park Educational Outreach Program

Historically, educational opportunities for women and girls in Afghanistan have been extremely limited due to many factors such as patriarchal dominance, government instability, and religious fundamentalism. Today the state of women's education in Afghanistan is tumultuous to say the least. In 2008 fewer than 30% of all eligible girls were enrolled in school, and as of 2009 85% of women and girls in Afghanistan were completely illiterate. Studies have shown that countries with a higher percentage of women with a secondary school diploma have better health, a more functional democracy and increased economic performance on both the microeconomic and macroeconomic levels. Ultimately, the education of women in Afghanistan is not only beneficial to the students but also to the entire country of Afghanistan and, consequently, the global community in which we live. Fortunately, high school students in Western New York, through the Western New York Girls' Schools Coalition: Afghanistan Project and the Orchard Park Educational Outreach Program recognize this ripple effect and are committed to the betterment of girls' education in Afghanistan.

The Western New York Girls' Schools Coalition: Afghanistan Project, a Circle of Women Circumference Chapter, was founded in 2002 by Friends of Women's Rights National Historical Park "In Her Footsteps" award recipient and Nardin Academy alumna, Clotilde Dedecker. The Coalition is a collective body composed of student representatives from three of the area all-girls' high schools, Nardin Academy, Buffalo Seminary, and Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, who fundraise to build schools for girls in Afghanistan and increase awareness amongst our respective student bodies on the benefits of girls' education. Since its inception, the Coalition has raised over \$40,000. In 2007, we were named a Circumference Chapter of Circle of Women. Co-founded by Dedecker and headquartered at Harvard College with 27 chapters around the world, Circle of Women is a young non-profit dedicated to building schools for girls in developing countries. We have built one school, the Zarghona Middle School for Girls, assisted in two others, and are assisting in Circle of Women's "Project Wonkhai," a secondary school for 1200 girls in the Wardak Province in Afghanistan. On February 26, 2010, the Coalition hosted PROJECT WONKHAI, a fashion show, featuring ADAM Resort 2010. We raised over \$6,000 from the event to be directed to the building of the security wall for "Project Wonkhai." As a Circumference Chapter of Circle of Women, "our philosophy is that one school will affect one community. One community will make a world of change."

The Orchard Park Educational Outreach Program works to build schools and provide educational opportunities for girls and women in Afghanistan. Created in 2001 by advisor Anthony Agnello, the group has funded five schools for women and children in Afghanistan so far, three of which were collaborative efforts with the Western New York Girls' School Coalition: Afghanistan Project. Throughout the years we have contributed to AID Afghanistan, an accelerated learning program with the goal of "catching up" girls denied education during the Taliban regime; SOLACE, a group which brings Afghan children to America for medical treatment, and several other initiatives. Our most recent project has been contributing to a women's dormitory and internet café for the School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA) dedicated to educating returned exchange students and other young Afghans. Located in Kabul, the school and café are part of SOLA's distance learning platform, which will allow students to communicate on a global level. Outreach plans to chat with the young female students, and develop a tutoring program in the near future via webcam. This exciting project will allow the group not only to speak with the beneficiaries of our efforts, but also to contribute further in tutoring the girls in various subjects. These projects will undoubtedly benefit many women and girls in Afghanistan in years to come as the efforts of Outreach continue to better educational opportunities for women in this war-torn country.

The Afghan proverb, "Drop by drop a river is formed," quintessentially describes the efforts that students in Western New York and around the world are facilitating to better girls' education in developing countries and to rebuild those respective countries. Every small effort counts. Join in!

For more information, please refer circleofwomen.org, girlsbuildschools.tripod.com, and afghanconnections.org

Lauren Hoffman, Co-President of WNY Girls' Schools Coalition: Afghanistan Project and

Ann Koehler, Vice-President of Orchard Park Educational Outreach Program

Joan Bozer requested we share this informative article about an outstanding effort by youth leaders whose commitment and efforts are most commendable. Their words and deeds are inspirational.

Amherst Unit News

The Amherst Unit will continue to monitor Town Board Meetings during the summer months. Please contact Joyce Zobel events@lwvbn.org to be an observer.

Sally Metzger continues to keep Klein Road free of litter and organized folks to clean Squaw Island on April 17th. Squaw Island has never been so clean! Thank you to everyone who participated, and especially to Sally.

The Amherst Unit will have a mid-summer picnic and will send you the date. Remember to make reservations for the League Annual business meeting and luncheon, Saturday, June 5th at Michael's Banquet Center to celebrate the League's 90th birthday and all the folks who have made history and democracy live through thoughtful activism and effort.

Judy Metzger, Sally Metzger, Arlene Miles, Amherst Unit Co-chairs

News from the Natural Resources Committee

Thank you, Joan Herold, for organizing our trip to Chaffee to visit the landfill and learn more about how their recycling program works. Leaguers representing East Aurora, Buffalo, Amherst, Lewiston, Holland and South Wales attended and are writing a report about the current state of recycling in our respective communities and how it can be improved.

As you can see by the smiling faces in our photo, we appreciated the opportunity.



How did I get involved in League? A number of years ago, I was asked by a Leaguer to take a petition to get signatures for a bottle return law—before Erie County had one! The amazing thing was that virtually EVERYONE was in favor of it! Of the hundreds of people approached, all but two signed. Then a few years later New York's bottle return became law. Beginning this year the New York law was expanded to include water bottles that have become extremely popular. Early reports are that the expanded bottle bill is a great success. Stores are complying, the price has not skyrocketed as some predicted and, the state is estimated to have already earned \$46 million in unclaimed deposits. So all the work of the League, NYPIRG and other groups that urged passage of the bill has been worth the effort!



Although it is an improvement to have returnable water bottles, we urge everyone to carry a washable, reusable stainless steel or protected glass container for their water. This reduces the environmental effects of plastic recycling and protects the health of the individual from leachate from the plastic.

Ellen Neumaier, Natural Resources Chair

Airport Corridor Tour, July 29

The Citizens for Regional Transit, CRTC, invites League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara members to take part in a bus tour of the existing right-of-way available for a Light Rail Transit line to the Buffalo Airport. Tours are scheduled from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on July 8, 15, and 29 leaving from City Hall.

Leaguers who attend the tour on the July 29th will gather for coffee, snacks and conversation afterward.

Information about the Airport Corridor is available at <http://citizenstransit.org/airportcorr/aircorpres2004.pdf>. Contact Gladys Gifford, events@lwvbn.org for more information about the July tours.

Kristin Allen, Transportation Group Chair

Membership dues and contributions to the LWV are not deductible as a personal or business expense for tax purposes.

JOIN

CUT OUT AND MAIL TODAY

Make check payable to **LWVBN** and send to **LWVBN**, 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209-2401 (Attn: Membership Chair, Judy Weidemann)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$62 Individual (Basic Membership) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 Household
<i>(2 members living at the same address)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Carrie Chapman Catt Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Student membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$ _____ | |

Unit Affiliation
(optional)

Amherst
 Buffalo Metro
 Clarence

Name (s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please send me the LWVBN VOTER via email.

This includes local, state and national League dues.

Please check your information in the LWVBN Membership Directory. If your contact information has changed or is listed incorrectly please let me know and I will make the change in our records.

Margaret Brunson events@lwvbn.org

If you change your e-mail address, please send an e-mail notifying us of the change from your new e-mail address to: lwvbn@lwvbn.org, and to me at events@lwvbn.org. We need this notification to reach you by e-mail with the latest news, advocacy requests, and information.

Elsa Bondar, LWVBN Grassroots Coordinator



If you're willing to receive your VOTER by e-mail, please contact me at events@lwvbn.org. You will help the environment, save printing and postage costs, and learn about upcoming events at least a week earlier than folks who receive the printed copy. We currently are sending VOTER by e-mail to 70 members who requested it. Their comments about the electronic delivery have been positive.

Terrí Park^s, VOTER Editor

We Honor a Generous Member and Remember his Extraordinary Wife



Robert North recently celebrated his 100th birthday. The League sends congratulations and good wishes his way. We greatly appreciate his generous support of our organization. His wife, Marian, was an extraordinary woman in many ways. She served on both the Buffalo and New York State League boards. She directed the Voter Service and Area Organization portfolios as a state board member. She trained numerous local League boards to her high professional standards. The League gratefully acknowledges the contributions of both Robert and Marian North.

Joan Photiadis

Make sure you indicated your choice of entrée for the Annual Meeting when you make your reservation with Judy Metzger. Write checks payable to LWVBN for \$25 per person.

Use the number of each choice as follows:

1. Sautéed Skinless Breast of Chicken with a Marsala wine sauce, vegetables and oven-roasted potatoes
2. Grilled Chicken Salad
3. Bowtie Pasta tossed with olive oil, garlic, seasonings and fresh vegetables

JUNE 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5/30	5/31	1 ISSUES/ACTION 4:30 p.m.	2	3 GREAT DECISIONS Page 2	4	5 ANNUAL MEETING Page 1
6	7	8	9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT 1:15 p.m.	10 NATURAL RESOURCES 9:30 a.m.	11	12
BMHA TENANT ELECTION ACTIVITES Page 4						
12	14	15	16	17 CHARTER SCHOOLS 1:30 p.m.	18	19
20	21 JOINT LWVBN BOARD 4:30 p.m.	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	7/1	7/2	7/3